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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/543,268	04/05/2000	Todd M. Boyce	285-79 CON	6472

7590 10/23/2002

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EXAMINER

PREBILIC, PAUL B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3738	

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/543,268	BOYCE ET AL.
	Examiner Paul B. Prebilic	Art Unit 3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7,9-21,23-43,45-61,63-80 and 82-134 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7,9-21,23-43,45-61,63-80 and 82-134 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 23, 2002 has been entered.

The terminal disclaimer filed July 23, 2002 was sufficient to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 19-21, 23, 34-43, 45, 56-61, 63, 74-80, 82 and 93-94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lyle (US 5,061,286) wherein demineralized bone particles have had there minerals removed such that the surfaces thereof are collagen. In addition, the particles are linked together with the binder such as cyanoacrylate; see the whole document, especially column 2, lines 63-68 and column 4, lines 12-20.

With regard to claim 6 specifically, the figures show a ring shaped cross-section around the hip implant stem.

With regard to claims 1-7, 9-10, 23, 45, 63, and 82, the material of Lyle is a solid material so it inherently has a tensile strength even though one is not disclosed. Since the Office does not have testing facilities to determine the tensile strength thereof, the Examiner hereby asserts that the tensile strength of Lyle is within the claimed range and hereby burdens the Applicant to show otherwise.

With regard to claims 13, 14, 24, 36, 40, 58, and 76, the limitations set forth in these claims are process limitations even though the claims are drawn to a product. For this reason, the Examiner asserts that the claimed product is fully met by Lyle even though a different method was used to make it because bonds with the collagen and binding agent are present; see MPEP 2113 which is incorporated herein by reference thereto.

Claims 11-14, 16, 19-21, and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jefferies (US 4,394,370) wherein the demineralized bone particles have surface exposed collagen which is crosslinked resulting in increased mechanical

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strength; in other words bonds are formed between the particles via the crosslinking agent to improve mechanical strength; see the whole document, especially Example I and column 4, lines 4-14.

Claims 1-7, 9-21, 23-43, 45-61, 63-80, and 82-134 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Boyce et al (US 5,899,939); see the entire document.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyle (US 5,061,286) alone. Lyle discloses the use of a binding agent in general and of a crosslinking molecule of cyanoacrylate specifically but does not disclose the use of the particular crosslinking agents as claimed. However, the Examiner posits that it would have been obvious to use another crosslinking agent in view of the broad teaching of Lyle for a binding agent absent some showing that the particular agent had some unexpected/unobvious result.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed July 23, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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In response to the traversal of the Lyle 35 USC 102(b) rejection that Lyle does not teach binding of particles to each other, the Examiner posits that the cement or adhesive of Lyle provides the chemical linkages to bind the particles together. Furthermore, there is no claim language, which precludes an intermediate chemical structure. For this reason, the claim language is fully met.

Applicants traverse the Jefferies 35 USC 102(b) rejection by arguing that it does not disclose reinforcing particles or fillers. However, the Examiner posits that at least collagen is the filler material. In addition, Example III discloses another filler in the form of macromolecules. These materials are fillers to the extent that such a term can be given patentable weight.

Applicants argue that Jefferies lacks the claimed compression strength as set forth in claim 1. However, the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims has been withdrawn. This argument is not relevant all but a few of the other claims.

Finally, Applicants traverse Jefferies by stating that there is no reinforcement component therein. However, the claims only require reinforcing particles. The filler need not have a reinforcing function. Nonetheless, the filler of Jefferies (i.e. collagen or macromolecules) provide reinforcement by serving as vehicles for chemical bonding.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Applicant should specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure, including the claims (MPEP 714.02 and 2163.06). Due to the procedure outlined in MPEP 2163.06 for interpreting claims, it is noted that other art may be

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applicable under 35 USC 102 or 35 USC 103(a) once the aforementioned problem is corrected.

Applicant is respectfully requested to provide a list of all copending applications that set forth similar subject matter to the present claims. A copy of such copending claims is respectfully requested in response to this Office action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Prebilic whose telephone number is (703) 308-2905. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott, can be reached on (703) 308-2111. The fax phone number for this Technology Center is (703) 872-9301.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 3700 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858.



Paul Prebilic
Primary Examiner
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